(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to realise the mounting provident fund dues from the Jute Mill owners in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is already a suitable provision in Section 8B (i) of the EPF Act providing *inter-alia* for recovery of the arrears of EPF dues by attachment and sale of movable and immovable property of the establishment and where necessary, the employer. This provision may be utilised for recovery of the arrears of Provident Fund dues from the jute mills.

Increase in the prices of cereals

*271. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sharp increase in the prices of cereals recently; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to check the price rise and to provide relief to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of the cereals as a group has exhibited only a marginal increase in the first sixteen weeks of the current financial year (1989-90). The wholesale price indices of wheat and barley declined significantly and that of maize moderately. This was off-set by moderate increase in price indices of rice and kharif coarse grains. The slight rise in prices of cereals is normal, resulting from inter-seasonal variations.

2. As regards the measures to control price rise in cereals, the main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of cereals in order to ensure that market availability position remains satisfactory and prices are contained within reasonable limits. The prices of cereals, especially wheat and rice, are kept under constant review and if required imports are resorted to. The State Governments are also advised to take effective measures in implementing and strictly enforcing the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations to curb the activities of hoarders, black-marketeers and other anti-social elements.

National Readership Survey

*272. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent National Readership Survey, also covering the electronic media, conducted by the Operation Research Group which shows that about 57 per cent of the adult population of the Hindi speaking States has never been exposed to Doordarshan and also that 71.4 per cent of the people in this area have never been exposed to AIR Vividh Bharati Programme;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what percentage of the population in the Hindi Area is covered by Doordarshan and Akashvani?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The Operations Research Group Report is basically a readership survey. Therefore, the primary focus of the study would be those persons who contribute to or subscribe to a newspaper. Since assessment of the reach of the electronic media was only a secondary objective, the findings of this survey cannot be

universally applied. The Media's own assessment, however, has brought out different results about listenership and viewership.

The percentage of population covered by All India Radio and Doordarshan in the Hindi speaking areas is as under:—

State/Union Territory	Percentage of population covered		
	All India Radio		Doordarshan
	Primary Channel	Vividh Bharati Channel	
Rajasthan	95%	1.97%	48.1%
Uttar Pradesh	96%	2.0%	85.9%
Madhya Pradesh	91%	1.4%	43.5%
Bihar	99%	1.48%	75.1%
Himachal Pradesh	75%	No V.B. Channel	57.3%
Haryana	97%	No V.B. Channel	98.5%
Delhi	100%	100%	100%
Chandigarh	100%	100%	100%

Irregularities in the working of the ICAR and the agricultural institutes

*273. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by Government on the report of the C&AG indicating the ICAR and the Agricultural Institutes for non-maintenance of proper registers of assets for 1987-88, for non-rectification of the discrepancies in the accounts and permanent advance registers for 1986-87 besides non-furnishing of the requisite details of Debt Deposit and Remittance (DDR) transactions alongwith the Annual Accounts by a number of institutes and on various other counts;

(b) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry into the working of the ICAR and the Agricultural Institutes in the country; if so, the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The audit Report was received in February, 1989. The following action has been taken on the report since then:—

(i) Instructions had been issued to all the formations of the Council during December, 1987 for proper maintenance of assets register in the prescribed format and to reconcil it with the value of stores exhibited in the stock register. After receipt of the Audit Report for 1987-88 in second half of February, 1989, instructions have again been issued during March, 1989 to bring the assets register upto date and produce it to the Audit at the time of the audit of the accounts for the financial year 1988-89. (ii) In the consolidated report on the accounts of the Council for the year 1986-87 there was no para where the figures shown in the accounts and in the permanent advance registers were to be rectified. (iii) Seventeen insti-